

3-25-09

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED Monarchs Drop Two to Conference RIVAL

Valley College loses  
two games in a row to  
Mission College

Sports | Pg. 6



# VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE'S  
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Attention Job Seekers**  
Paid internships available through Valley  
for students  
News | Pg. 2

**Men vs Women**  
Have men lost their dominant place  
within society?  
Opinion | Pg. 3

**Middle Eastern Wonder**  
The Pita Kitchen offers food variety in  
the Valley  
Valley Life | Pg. 4

VOLUME 70, ISSUE NO. 5

LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

MARCH 25, 2009

## Transfer Center Open For Students

Center can help with  
career decisions as well as  
transfer information.

SARAH KNOWLES  
NEWS EDITOR

Transferring to a 4-year university may seem like something to worry about later in the year, however, Valley College's Career and Transfer Center is open all year-round, perfect for those wanting a head-start on the stressful university application season to come.

Career Center counselor Clive Gordon believes that the key to a successful university application is starting early. According to Gordon, the center aids students in selecting the correct classes for the school they plan to attend after completing lower-division classes.

"You can come and talk to one of two counselors, get help with filling out applications, and help with choosing which classes to take in order to complete requirements," said Gordon.

The Career Center also holds Job Shadow Programs, which aims to give students hands-on help within their chosen career field.

"The students sign up, then tell us about their career interests," said Gordon, regarding the program. "From nursing and other

see *Transfer* page 2



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**FIND YOUR WAY** - Students find guidance and more at the Career/Transfer Center located in the Administration Building.



**4000 VOICES ECHO IN HOLLYWOOD** - Enthusiastic protesters express the importance of peace as their voices echo in a Hollywood anti-war demonstration in an effort to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

## Students March in Anti-War Rally

SARAH KNOWLES  
NEWS EDITOR

Students were among the 4,000-strong crowd expressing outrage over the Iraq War, during the "Stop the Wars" march & rally Saturday, which culminated in front of the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

Sponsored by the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism Coalition, the crowd marched down Hollywood boulevard carrying mock coffins and signs reading "Out of Iraq" and "Put an End to the War." It marked the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

"I think it's good to voice your opinion but I don't think the rally makes a difference except getting your views in the media," said

Valley student Melissa Christal. "The people in control of the war aren't going to listen."

According to China News, the American people voted overwhelmingly for an end to war and occupation in Iraq.

The current \$543 billion being spent on the troops in Iraq is virtually an unknown figure to many Americans, and organizers of the march stated that the day was important in raising awareness of what is still occurring as a result of the war.

Protestors marched past the army recruitment center in Hollywood, where groups of all nationalities converged to show their solidarity in wanting to end the war.

Police secured the area but no conflict was reported.



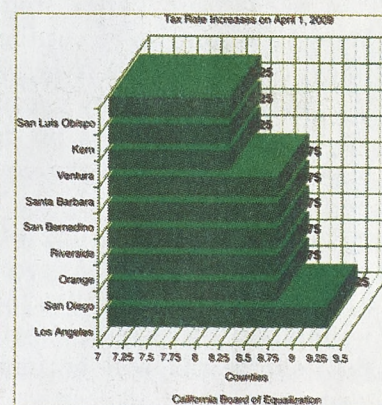
**SILENT** - A protester stands tall and observes speakers in Saturday's anti-war demonstration as a sign solidly reads behind her, "America will fail in Afghanistan."



**MONEY FOR EDUCATION** - A student gets ready to distribute signs provided by the ANSWER Coalition off Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street.

## No April Fool, Sales Tax Will Increase

■ Sales Tax to rise state wide April 1.



ASTRID SEIPELT  
MANAGING EDITOR

Californians who head to the mall or the market come April 1 will need to have extra cash in their wallets, as the sales tax will experience a temporary one percent increase statewide. This change will increase the sales tax levied in Los Angeles County from 8.25 to 9.25 percent. According to the California Board of Equalization, items such as gasoline, vehicles, clothing, and consumables such as prepared hot foods will increase in price due to the tax hike.

The change, which is in conjunction with spending cuts and borrowing to close the state budget deficit of \$42-billion, comes after the California budget was passed Feb. 19. The increase is not permanent, and will expire July 1, 2011 or July 1, 2012, dependent on the approval of Proposition 1A, Budget Stabilization Act in a statewide election on May 19.

"The sales tax helps students very indirectly..." said Valley Political Science Professor Anthony O'Regan. "The concern is that by raising the sales tax this will raise the overall cost of products and services and thus could result in a decline of the consumption of these goods and services and therefore a decline in state tax revenues...Seeing that education is the largest outlay of the budget, (it) could therefore impact its constituency (students, teachers, administrators and support staff) most

see *Sales Tax* page 2

## Obama Addresses Student Loan Issues During Town Hall Meeting

■ The president's appearance on The Tonight Show was most talked about, but Barack Obama also addressed issues surrounding college debt and future plans to help end the crisis.

SARAH KNOWLES  
NEWS EDITOR

The first peak of spring sunshine crept through the morning mist Thursday, as President Barack Obama made his own impression on Los Angeles, addressing the financial uncertainties students may have to face when looking for educational funding.

While responding to a college graduate during the town hall meeting at the Miguel Contreras Learning Center in downtown Los Angeles, the president eased worries by speaking of plans that he hopes will be put into place in the near future.

"In our current budget, we are calling for mandatory increases in Pell Grant programs to keep up with inflation, improvements in the Perkins Loan Program," he said. "We're going to cut out

the middle men -- banks that are making huge profits on student loans, just make those loans that are federally guaranteed directly to the students."

He also suggested that a bill may be signed in the next few weeks that will give young people the opportunity to teach for three years, or volunteer within the community, to help finance a higher education.

"I think that it's great for people who have low income, or don't have the means to pay for school especially right now," said Valley student and sociology major Iesha Billups. "I think he should lower it even more."

During the meeting that maintained the electric atmosphere that is synonymous with the president's name, Obama was swift to address the poor conditions California is facing.

**"What it means for our students [is] that loans will be available and probably at lower interest rates..."**

- Anthony O'Regan  
political science professor

"Between December of last year and January of this year, this state lost more than half a million jobs," he said. "One out of every 10 Californians is now out of work. Housing prices here have fallen 20 percent in the past year, and

you've got one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation."

A swift applause took hold of the packed center, when the president said that major investments would take place within California and

"more than 396,000 jobs [would be created] in this state over the next two years."

Valley College political science professor Anthony O'Regan believes the educational implements Obama wants to put in place will give Valley's students more leverage when making the student loan decision.

"What it means for our students [is] that loans will be available and probably at lower interest rates than in the past," said O'Regan.

"Obama has sought to cut the middle man, i.e. the banks who make money via the student loan system that is guaranteed by the federal government. There's been a lot of scandals over certain schools that shepherd students to certain banks and get a kick-back in return."

Obama ended the meeting by stating that school construction will be a part of his future plans to end overcrowding in the classroom.



## 'Sales Tax'

continued from page 1

significantly of all."

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is a proponent of the passage of Prop. 1A, stating that he was doing the best for the state, despite reneging on his promise to oppose new taxes when he was reelected in 2006.

"Back when I was running, I wouldn't sign a pledge against taxes because I didn't want to be constrained if there were a disaster, like an earthquake," said Schwarzenegger to the Sacramento Bee. "In a way, the disaster happened. The state of California faced insolvency."

The governor also fired at critics of the proposition, saying that those who mount an attack on the initiative "prefer dysfunction over change" in California.

College students who earn lower wages will be one group of Californians cutting back their spending in the wake of the rise.

"It's going to affect a lot of things given that minimum wage is around \$8, a lot of people are not going to make enough money to buy the things that they need," said Valley student Edgar Cuevas. "I know I am going to be cutting back on my luxuries, (they) don't take up a large part of my income...but it's going to impact my spending."

Angelinos will also be dealt with another tax hike on July 1, when the county tax rate increases to 9.75 percent July 1. This increase can be attributed to the passing of Measure R by voters last November. According to Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the measure will assist in funding the improvement of transportation in the county, and will be imposed for the next 30 years.

## 'Transfer'

continued from page 1

careers, we send them to job training, which matches their choice. Students can meet with the company and get first-hand experience."

Second year chicano studies major Samuel Lara, said he has not used the center himself but recently recommended it to a classmate.

"I think it's definitely good, it's a way of us students to get help," Lara said. "There was one of my classmates who wanted information about transfer-

ring, and I took her and right there she learned her requirements and GPA information. It's something people should know about."

Most universities are no longer taking Fall 2009 applications, but UC Riverside is one of a small percentage that is still accepting applications, according to Gordon. The center is available for help with last minute application help as well as information for the future.

The center is open Monday through Friday and all Valley students are eligible for the free services. For more information contact the center, located in the administration building.

## LACCD Offers Paid Internships for Qualified Valley College Students

■ The economy continues to push people out of work, but students looking for part-time jobs can now find relief in paid internships.

LUCAS THOMPSON  
STAFF WRITER

According to the Los Angeles Times, around 1 in 10 Californians are jobless. The state of the country's economy is not only making it difficult for Americans to find jobs they are qualified for, but often impossible to find a job at all. However, there is help available for Valley College students in the form of paid internships.

For four years, the Los Angeles Community College District set up a program to give qualified students paid internships in their designated fields or desired careers.

This focuses on narrowing down the student's wide career choices to one suitable for their qualifications.

"The whole purpose of the program is to help students decide what field they want to get into," said Program Manager Michael Flores.

The internship program, still in its early stages, has had great success; Flores said that 34 per-

cent of applicants have completed the process. This number includes students who have failed to fill out or meet all requirements for the paid internships. Each eligible student is required to fill out a resume, complete the student application, get a faculty referral and submit all information to the LACCD.

**"The whole purpose of the program is to help students decide what field they want to get into."**

- Michael Flores  
internship program manager

Each student is guaranteed at least 15 weeks of paid internship work, assuming they fill the job requirements and assignments, with companies such as the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Metropolitan Water District and

URS Corporation.

"...At the same token, we want to encourage the companies to recycle through (the students)," said Flores in reference to getting a large number of students through the program.

Programs are available in architecture, engineering, computer graphics, technology, marketing and business management and customer service.

"These days, jobs are specialized, not like the old days," Los Angeles Trade Tech College graduate and LACCD Intern Kenneth Jones said. "I wish more students would take part in internships... (many) are uneducated."

The program is currently available at Valley and other campuses within the LACCD. Compensation is based on the L.A. county living standards, which is \$11.25 per hour. For more information about qualifying and or registering for a paid internship, contact Michael Flores at (213) 996-2533, or visit <https://www.pvjjobsdb.org/interns/>.

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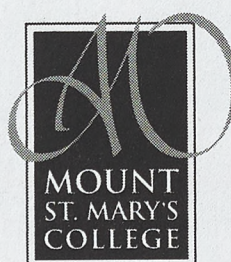
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# OPINION

3

## X Versus Y - The Ultimate Battle of the Sexes

■ Sorry ladies, but us men and our Y chromosome are here to stay, like it or not.

JOE LAFLEUR  
OPINION EDITOR

"Women. You can't live with 'em, you can't live without 'em, and you sure can't shoot 'em... not legally," or so the saying goes. No one is sure where this saying comes from or when it was originated but the statement, regardless of time or place, never seems to fail to describe the male/female dynamic.

Before we get started it is important to make a few things known. Men and women work together and without each other certain things don't work. For instance, reproduction, you know, that thing that gives life to all of us. Without women, men would be left with our hands literally down our pants. Women are our grandmothers, mothers and the mother of our children. They are there to remind us of where we put our car keys and they are often our glue. Their small feet allow them to get closer to the stove, sink and washing machine when they cook our meals, wash our dishes and do our laundry. This is all thanks to a little thing called the X chromosome.

Men and women share 22 pairs of like chromosomes, yet it is the 23rd pair that determines male traits or female traits. In women, this 23rd pair is made up of two X chromosomes (similar to the other 22). In men, this pair is made up of both an X chromosome and Y chromosome, and believe me when I say, despite the female perspective of male inferiority due to lack of the extra leg on the Y, it takes a man to carry

a Y chromosome. In actuality it shows that, while women need that extra leg, men get along just fine without it.

Recent studies, such as the one conducted by David Page of MIT's Whitehead Institute, have shown that the Y chromosome seems to be gradually mutating and allowing mistakes to find their way in, thus depleting the amount of genes found in the chromosome. However ladies, before you go turning to the nearest man and laugh in his face, chanting 'I told you so' while skipping in circles, all is not lost for the male.

"At the same time that it is continuing to lose genes, it's found some new ways of replenishing itself," said Page in an interview with NPR. Page and his colleagues reported that the Y chromosome has been creating mirror images of itself as back up copies. The kicker is that it did this without once pulling over and asking for directions or picking up

an instruction booklet. For that matter, it never once called up one of its friends to share a good cry and vent about the possibility of its disappearance.

That's right, girls. The male species, in all its beer drinking, sport watching and stomach scratching glory will not simply disappear. Yes, we may have a shorter life expectancy than our female counterparts (80 to 75 years according to the Social Security Administration) but after so many years of putting up with women, it reaches the point where it is simply better to dive into the permanent sleep we call peace.

■ Modern women have to ponder, where are all the real men hiding out these days?

LAUREN LEES  
ONLINE EDITOR

The quest to find a man, not a boy, plagues most women today. We women find ourselves sitting and pondering where the elusive man has gone, and why he has been replaced with these obviously cheap knockoffs the same quality of a swap meet Gucci bag.

Well, the pondering is over and our question answered. The cherished Y chromosome is losing its genes from generation to generation. Women can let out that sigh of relief - It's down to genetics. They might not be that into us, but it's

because genetically they aren't that into themselves.

"Over the last 300 million years, the once-proud Y chromosome has shrunk from about 1,500 genes to its current miserly 78 genes," writes Karl Kruzelnicki for ABCscience.com. "And if it keeps shrinking and mutating at the present rate, it'll be totally useless in just a few million years."

This explains the staggering increasingly feminized version of men. They flex their puny non-existent muscles while getting manicures, with their perfectly coiffed bed head hair that took at least an hour and half a bottle of hairspray to construct. They model their man curves in skinny jeans, and wear eyeliner in the fashion of Brett Michaels.

It should be mandatory for every 'man' to memorize the lyrics of Jay-Z's 'Swagga Like Us,' "Can't wear skinny jeans cause my knots don't fit."

Speaking of knots, women don't have to wonder where the gall (so to speak) to ask

a woman out disappeared to. In the 30s, women couldn't open doors in the presence of a man. In the 50s, men paid for dates involving flowers and candy, and movies and dinner that didn't involve McDonalds. In the 70s, they asked what our sign was, at least still making the first move. Now, all they do is stand in groups, whistling as if they're the Pied Piper, secretly praying for the same results. They don't even have the courage to stand alone and whistle.

Yet, as soon as they land a girlfriend they have the audacity to wonder why we do not cook and clean like the good old versions of ourselves. It's not our fault we women are naturally evolving and growing, genetically speaking, matching wits and capabilities with our so-called 'counterparts'.

Kruzelnicki tries to soften up the inevitable with more scientific jargon, stating that the Y chromosome has the ability to recombine with itself, to prevent major mutations and further shrinking, writing, "If one section of the Y chromosome is damaged it can find an undamaged version of the same section somewhere else in the Y chromosome... Yes, the Y chromosome can fix itself - but only by having sex with itself."

Every guy should give a hand to that, not because they are saved from disappearance, but because, at their current state, it's the only real loving they should get. So, as the hunt for the real man continues, women can stop settling for some half mutated loser, but comb through looking for that one man who escaped his genetic disposition, and learned a thing or two from his mother.



Eduardo Herrera / Valley Star

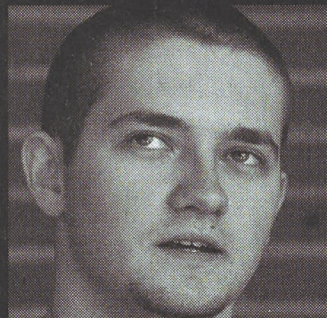
### CAMPUS VIEW:

Photos by Grettel Cortes / Valley Star



"Whether or not it's right, the law permits it to happen. If the law says you can, then I guess you can."

- Serov Abrahamian  
political science



"I think it's not fair, because it seems like we are offering more opportunities to some one who is not even from here...."

- Kevin Kaminyar  
psychology



"I think that it's not that they don't have to pay, but I still think they should be able to come to school."

- Rebecca Kelly  
child development



"If they're here illegally then they're probably not well off. It gives them a good chance to actually...start affording things themselves."

- Tanya Kandralyan  
psychology

Is it fair for illegal immigrants to be allowed to receive free college tuition?

## The Illegal Way Continues to Prosper

SARAH KNOWLES  
NEWS EDITOR

The money woes of California may feel like a stab in the back for many Valley College students pondering the future funding of their education, however, there is one group of people that enjoy digging that knife down even deeper - criminals.

Illegal aliens do not only reap the benefits of free health care, and steal jobs that Americans so desperately need, they are also able to abuse the country's idiotic system, with free community college education that many of us must pay for.

According to the AB 540 Bill, which was signed into law by the governor on October 11, 2001, illegal aliens can benefit from tuition fee waivers regardless of immigration status. The bill indicates that students wanting to study at Valley do not need proof of residency or a social security number. Surprisingly there is one term - aliens must have graduated from a high school in California. Don't retrieve your faith in the system too quickly, though; the state does not ask for your immigration status when applying to high school, leaving the rule redundant.

While many students may get free education through various financial aid anyway, there are some cashing out for us all. International students for exam-

ple, who enter the United States legally, pay \$300 per unit, and must be enrolled in at least 12 units to remain in lawful status. Totaling all costs, those entering legally must pay almost \$3000 each semester.

Those dollars obviously have a perfect home within the hands of students whom claim the benefits of being here illegally. According to Americans for Legal Immigration, the state of California spends \$7.7 billion on educating illegal immigrants; more than half of the \$12 billion spent annually for the cause in the United States.

"I prefer them to be in school than shooting each other on the streets," said Valley student Arek Sliwa. "We can afford it much more to pay for the schooling than for them to be doing bad things outside of school."

While some of Valley may not have a problem with this, the issue is obviously not only ethically wrong but completely unfair. While many of us struggle to pay for fees and other necessities, those that jump across our wildly under-guarded borders are given our cash for the taking.

So next time you're wondering how to pay for your units, or this semester's parking fee, conveniently lose your driver's license or US passport- You may cope a little better than previously thought.

## The Cost of a Valley College Thank You...Priceless

JESSE RICHARDSON  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Many of us have heard that our economy seems to be spiraling downward and so far, there are no signs of it letting up. In light of this, many organizations are counting every penny they spend, ensuring supporters that money is spent wisely. If only we could say the same thing about Valley College's Associated Student Union.

On March 16, the ASU funded a pointless, not to mention massively expensive trip to Sacramento - buying over 40 peoples plane tickets, bus fares, and lunches. Airfares totaled \$9064, \$1250 was spent on food expenses, and "very expensive" bus fares, the ASU wasted more than 10,000 in student representation fees on saying "Thank You."

While the original purpose was to allow students a chance to protest budget decisions that could potentially harm our community colleges, the agenda changed. According to an attendee of the "protest," coordinators advised students to "thank" legislators for not introducing any cuts rather than pressure them into helping our schools during the ASU's

preliminary meeting on March 6.

"[At the rally] we were the only school saying 'Thank You' to the legislators," said the anonymous student. "...Even on our bus ride from the airport they were passing around a thank you card."

While other schools had organized chants, students in school spirit attire, and signs reading, 'S.O.S - Save our Schools,' and 'Fund Education, Not War,' Valley merely held up a single poster reading "Los Angeles Valley College." No chants, no signs - only

"Thank You."

Clay Gallano, another Valley attendee, was completely ashamed with this college. "We didn't show any student solidarity," said Gallano. "...I'm just embarrassed with my college. It wouldn't have made a difference if we were there or not."

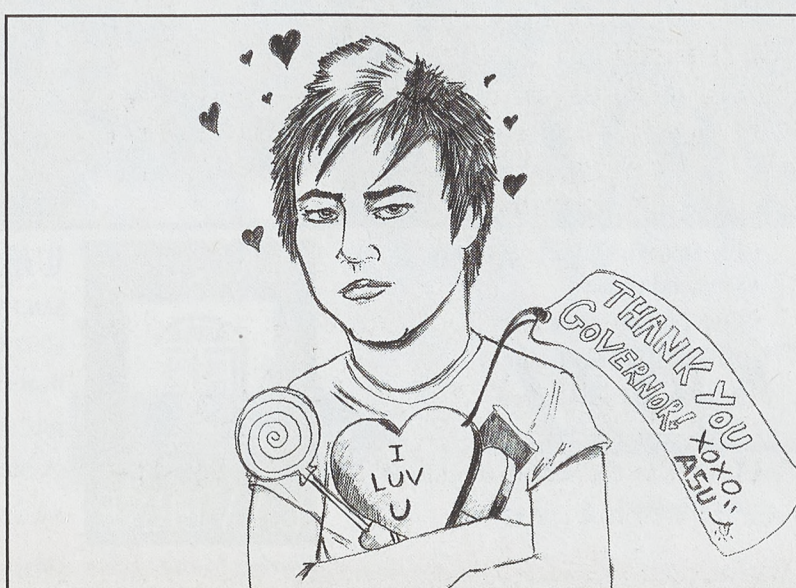
Many students were confused on what message the ASU intended on sending. California's Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, who spoke at the rally, pushed for an increase in CC support, but our col-

lege didn't. In fact, ASU President Josh Wible stated that, "The main thing we wanted to do was thank [the legislature]. Even though it seemed like a protest, that is not [ASU's] position."

Discontent with this approach, Gallano decided to join in with the progressive Anthropology Coalition and helped them pass out fliers rather than support the "counter-productivity" of Valley.

If we only planned to thank them, why didn't we just go get a Hallmark card from 7-11 and mail it for 27 cents? We could have allocated that money to the Math Lab, Library, or any other student service students directly benefit from. Or, in Gallano's point of view, use that money to fund a budget awareness campaign in support of Proposition 1B on the May 19 ballot.

This mismanagement of funds should serve as an example of why government, ASU included, needs to put more of an emphasis on their planning stage. Having a disorganized, misled student base only adds to the problem. The question we have to ask ourselves is this: What is more effective, political flattery or political pressure?



EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for publication. A full name and contact information must be supplied in order to be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday to be included in the next edition.



## LAVC EVENTS

### Thursday, March 26

The LAVC STARS program will present a free workshop entitled "Is Math Doing a Number on You?" The workshop will help students learn the common myths and misconceptions about math, gain strategies for improving performance in math classes, and how to appreciate math's connection to other subjects for success in other classes. Space is limited, and lunch will be provided.

### Sunday, March 29

LAVC Coral Music Department presents Welcome Spring. The Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra and the college choir will be performing Schubert - Mass in E flat. It will be held at the Mainstage Theater at 7 p.m. admission is \$15, students and seniors \$10.

### Think Transfer!

Sign-up for a Free Bus Trip to UC Santa Barbara Friday, April 17 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25  
How to Transfer Workshop  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Administration 126

Thursday, March 26  
Careers in Elementary and Secondary Teaching Workshop 1 - 2 p.m. Foreign Language 102

For further information, contact the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 or call (818) 947-2646.

## ALBUM REVIEW

### A Decade Gone Unnoticed



ANA ROSA MURILLO  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Unsigned artists are often lost within the world of commercialization, however San Fernando Valley's Eleni Mandell is an independent songwriter/vocalist that is well worth a listen. After seven albums, Mandell has shown she deserves the recognition that comes with being part of the modern scene with her latest album, "Artificial Fire."

The opening track, "Artificial Fire," (Mandell's metaphor for failed romance), incorporates a rock-and-roll tone along with sweet jazz, folk and blues, a theme that continues throughout her album. Mandell mixes it up in the track "Personal." It includes a more subtle tone while adding the intimate sound of strings. She sings about an interest for "only dark chocolate," and describes the color of her eyes as "martini olives."

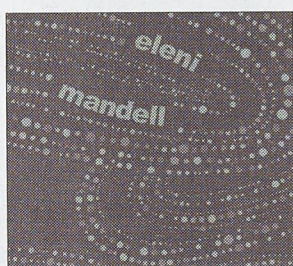
The new album reflects Mandell's maturity in the love department. She still offers her listeners the jazzy feel

they have come to expect, but the album lacks the intimacy and sophistication carried in previous songs, such as her previous albums' hit song, "Miss Me."

Song "Bigger Burn" feeds the listener with a tale of long-lost love. "How long was it gonna take you for you to forgive me?" she sings before telling us that, "It was a bigger burn than I counted on." With an explosion of her Les Paul guitar, she adds her own 80s sound, influenced by The Pretenders.

According to The Associated Press, guitarist Jeremy Drake plays part in the new album. Drake brings an edgy sound into songs where it previously didn't exist, enhancing the diversity of her music. This includes the prevalence of the 60s, decorating the romanticism in Mandell's colorful lyrics.

"Artificial Fire" has an eclectic balance that should satisfy all cravings in the pop/rock genre. With independent female artists such as Feist and Chant Marshall are on the rise, Mandell rises to their standard.



GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

**A FEW GOOD MEN** - Veteran brothers Neo and Enrique Aguirre try to recruit student Kalem Ginsberg for membership into the LAVC Veterans Club.

## Club Day Gains Students Interest

SASHA SANTACRUZ  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Campus clubs welcomed students to Monarch Square March 18 to enjoy food and drink, while spreading the message about the different activities clubs participate in. Students walking around hungry for knowledge did not

go unsated, with flyers packed with information abounding.

The Valley Collegiate Players Club gained student interest when shouts of "Support the Arts!" rang out across the square while passing out flyers for their upcoming show.

"[There is] Much more advertisement [from the clubs] this year than

others," said Amanda Yollin, a member of the Collegiate Players.

Songs of solidarity streaming out of a laptop on the Philosophy Club table didn't fail to attract attention. Members of the club were working their hardest to promote their three upcoming events for the next few months.

"When you walk inside the room you are the philosopher, what is your philosophy?" asked club member Steve Pargamanik of passing students.

Tau Alpha Epsilon provides support for such activities as the Deans Reception and tutoring, had an easel board for students to play a quick game of hangman between classes. Members of TAE approached students with their message and philosophy on several topics.

While the mood of Club Day was generally a positive one, one club claimed that their rights were infringed on by the college administration.

ASU Faculty Advisor Elizabeth Ortiz approached Democracy Matters and asked that they remove a poster stating "A future in corrections and homeland security is a future in oppression," due to its political statement. The poster was in protest of the Job Fair for Corrections and Homeland Security, which was being held at the same time.

According to the club, the poster was displayed to question the validity of the job fair and brighten the light on the military and prison industrial complexes in a respectful way. The club was told that in order to make a political statement, the free speech area must be used.

"The school was limiting free speech more than usual and it seemed to be at the expense of the students and club," said Andrea Barrera, president of Democracy Matters.

Democracy Matters complied with the request, but after the administration failed supply them with proper documentation, they replaced the sign.

-WAYNE PIGFORD CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE

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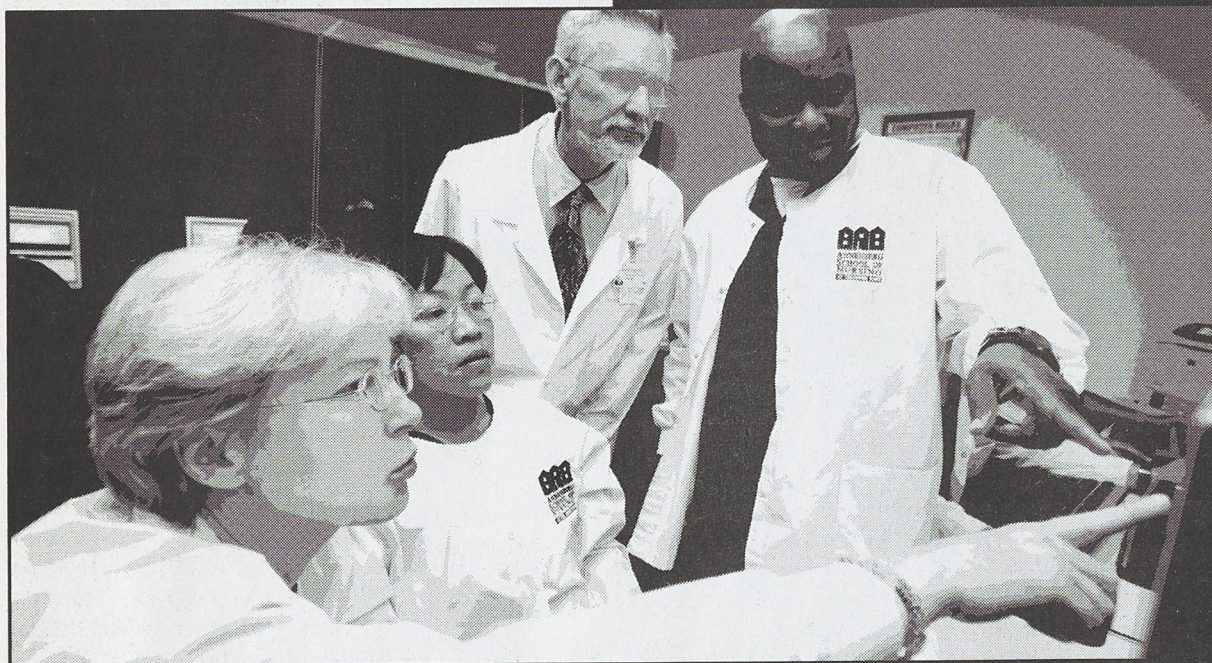
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5 p.m. Presentation by ASN Director Marie Fagan.

Followed by tours of skills lab, computer center and classroom. Refreshments will be served.

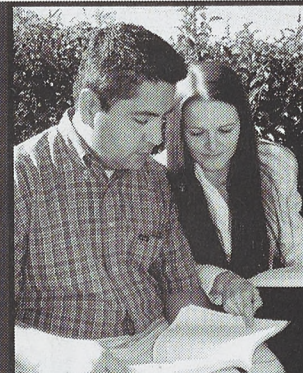
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## VALLEY LIFE

5

## Pita Offers a Taste of Middle East



GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

SASHA SANTACRUZ  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

After almost a year of vegetarianism, a friend of mine introduced me to The Pita Kitchen, located on the Ventura Strip in Sherman Oaks. The tasty offerings surrounding me invaded my nose, and I just had to indulge my carnivorous side at this Arabic eatery.

The Pita Kitchen has been in business for the past 11 years with owners Abe and Z. Best described as aim-to-please owners, they offer reasonable prices with large portions, an adequate amount to feed two.

Their menu fits any person's lifestyle, time, and affordability. Just make sure you have cash in hand, because it is the only method of payment they accept. If you're busy you can grab it to go, but if you have the time to sit and enjoy the place, I suggest you do and order a plate.

The beef, lamb, and chicken on the menu is cooked it at its finest, non-greasy and with just the right amount of spices that are imported from Israel. The meals are served with a side of hummus, Mid-East salad and the customer favorite, plain rice. A sign by their cash reg-



GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

**PITAS AND MORE** - At the Pita Kitchen located at 14500 Ventura Blvd. in Sherman Oaks, diners can enjoy their food on the outside patio.

ister sums up the ethos of the Pita Kitchen.

"Our food is made fresh to order. Please allow 10-15 minutes for Kebabs. Have a seat and relax. We will call you when your order is ready."

The "Beef/Lamb Shawarma," a combination of broiled beef and lamb, is so tender that when a bite is taken you don't suddenly play a game of tug-of-war. The "Beef Shish Kebab," is seasoned fresh filet mignon beef. This beef, which

is known for being quite pricey at restaurants, will only cost \$6 - \$10 depending on if it is stuffed in a pita, wrapped or on a plate.

Dessert is often over priced at other similar restaurants, but for \$1.50 a delightful piece of Baklava is available. A rich pastry made up of filo dough, chopped nuts and honey, it is a mouthwatering dessert that Abe makes daily.

"I want to bring back the old peoples memories of their

old towns and villages back in Israel when they take a bite of our food" said owner Abe. "I also want the young people to get a taste of it."

The diminutive restaurant on Van Nuys and Ventura Boulevards hidden behind the newsstand is quite the place to dine, despite its small interior.

"I come here when I can because everything about this place is exceptional," said customer David Schwatz.

Seating is limited to about

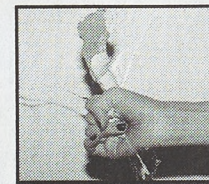
45 people, both inside and on the street. The employees are courteous and have a keen eye for cleanliness, making sure condiments are accessible at each table.

With 12 previous restaurants at this location, horrible parking and the landlord not letting them remodel proves that locality isn't a factor as to why the business has been successful, but its quality of food and service that has enthusiasts returning to The Pita Kitchen.

## UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



YEAH YEAH  
YEAHS  
IT'S BLITZ!

OTHER RELEASES:

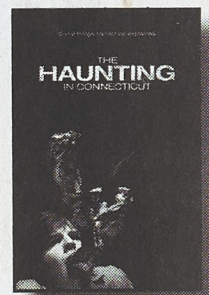
Peter, Bjorn & John, *Living Thing*

Prince, *Lotusflow3r*

Flo Rida, *R.O.O.T.S.*

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



THE  
HAUNTING OF  
CONNECTICUT

UPCOMING RELEASES:

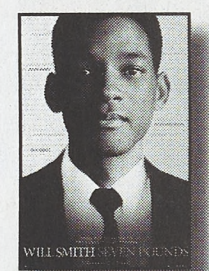
12 Rounds

Monsters vs. Aliens

American Swing

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



SEVEN POUNDS

OTHER RELEASES:

Marley and Me

Slumdog Millionaire

Tell No One

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## STILL ACCEPTING FOR SPRING!





**OUT AT SECOND** - Valley College shortstop Francisco Herrera tags out a Mission College base runner during the high scoring 19-10 loss at home last week. The Monarch's season has been a roller coaster ride. The green and gold have shown that they have the ability to score runs, rally from behind, pitch, and play defense. Their challenge has been in their inability to put all of these components to work on a consistent basis from game to game.

## OPINION

# Becks Defaults with Italian Job

■ David Beckham serves no one in soccer but himself.

ROBERT R. KING  
STAFF WRITER

Noteven three years after David Beckham signed a five-year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy, he has forsaken his American fans by wanting to leave.

The great pariah of fútbol went to Italian Serie A club AC Milan so he might have a chance to play in the 2010 World Cup and break the English record for international appearances.

With the realization that he could still compete with the best, Beckham made it apparent that he wanted to make his move to Milan permanent.

In the process, he pointed out to the world that Major League Soccer really isn't good enough for him.

"I hope that things will go the way I want them to and I have already said it is my desire to stay at Milan," Beckham said in an interview posted on ESPN's Soccernet.com. "Having clarified that I want to stay here, it might be difficult to go back to playing in the States."

When he signed his reported \$250 million contract with L.A. in 2007, many people wondered if his ambassadorship was actually to his own bank account. Those people appear to be correct.

First, at the end of the 2008 Major League Soccer season in which Beckham played lackadaisically, scoring only five goals,

and adding a paltry 10 assists, he could not keep his distaste for the Galaxy's quality off his face. So, he brokered his own loan deal to join AC Milan during the MLS offseason.

Second, Milan is one of the premier clubs in the world and when he got to Italy, Beckham played with the fervor he lacked in America, scoring in both of his first two games.

After he made it clear he wanted to stay with Milan permanently, Galaxy management did not budge in negotiations. They insisted that if Becks wanted to play in Italy past the March 9 return date, Milan could buy his contract for a sizeable fee.

A compromise between the teams will allow Beckham to stay with Milan until the end of the Italian season and return to the Galaxy on July 15, more than half way through the MLS season.

He can still buy out his contract at the end of the year and all signs point to him doing so, even with pressure from his wife to stay in Los Angeles.

Now that he can taste the glory of playing in another World Cup, he is clearly willing to alienate the fans that have supported his exorbitant salary and cheered for him here in Los Angeles.

He shouldn't even bother to come back and pretend that he cares about U.S. soccer. It is obvious he only cares about good old numero uno - himself.

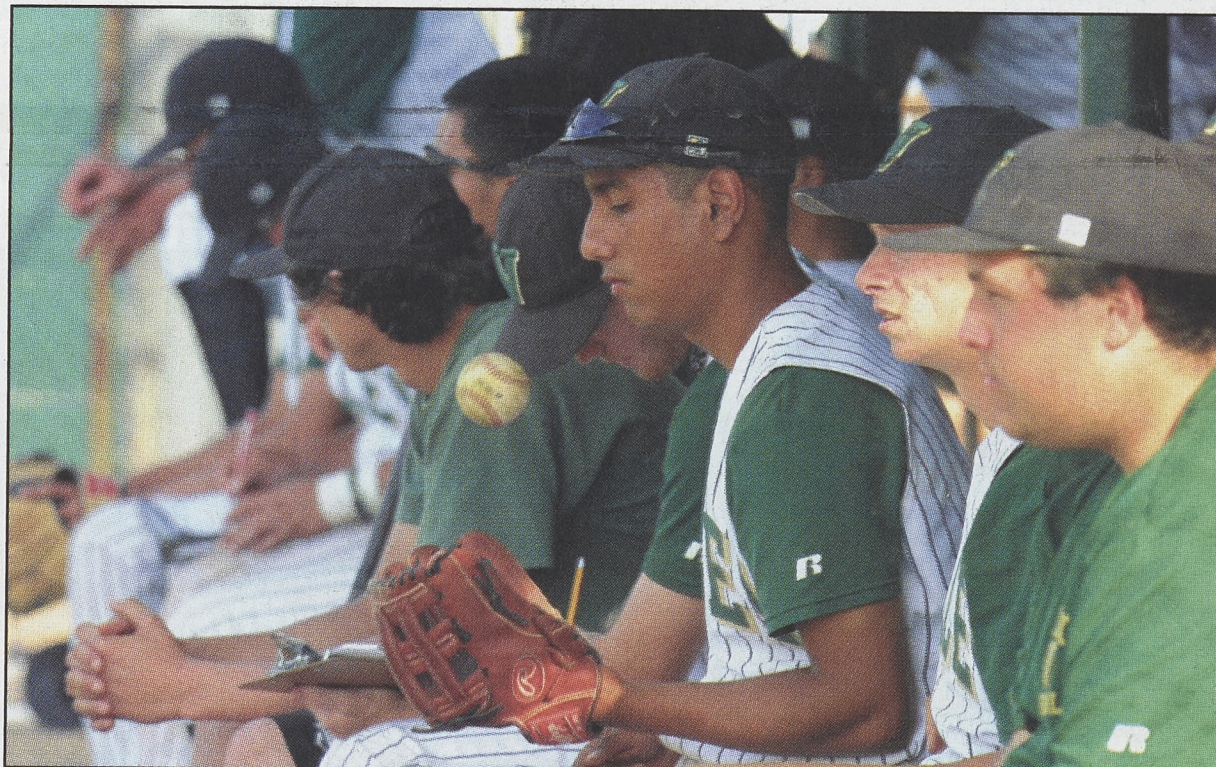


SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**"...I have already said it is my desire to stay at Milan."**

- David Beckham

# Valley Fails Again at Mission



**THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE**- Members of the Monarch baseball team quietly watch as the game slips away.

H.GORE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Los Angeles Mission College baseball put an end to Valley College's one game winning

streak with a 19-10 victory over the Monarchs at Pike Field Thursday.

The Eagles scored at least one run in every inning, highlighted by a five-run seventh that sealed

the game for the visitors.

"Winning baseball means playing hard all the way through," said Mission Coach Joe Cascione. "Valley came back and put up nine runs in the last five innings

so my guys needed to keep putting it on them on the offensive end."

Leading 10-6, Mission took advantage of Valley pitching and mistakes in the seventh inning. The Eagles used two doubles, two singles, a walk, and a passed ball to give themselves a nine-run cushion at 15-6.

Mission sophomore centerfielder Virgil Hill went 4-5 on the day with three doubles and an RBI and credits practice for the team's victory.

"We had a real good week of practice," said Hill. "Everybody rose to the occasion and played really well. It all came from practice and the preparation before the game."

The Monarchs answered with two runs in the bottom of the seventh but were unable to complete the comeback. Valley tried to rally in the bottom of the eighth inning with the team trailing 18-8. Freshman third baseman Fabian Loza reached base on an error followed by singles by sophomores Matt Johnson and Mike Sanchez. The bases loaded no out situation resulted in no runs for the Monarchs, but plenty of frustration.

"It's just tough because we go out there and try to compete every game but things just didn't work out for us today," said sophomore centerfielder Alex Gaudioso. "It's an all-around team thing. We need to have better hitting, pitching, and defense."

Valley used seven pitchers in the game and the offense didn't seem to wake up until the later innings. The team was held to one run through the first four innings, but crossed home plate four out of the final five innings starting with a three-run fifth. The Monarchs loaded the bases with a single, base on balls, and an error, setting the table for freshman outfielder Hank Burditt's bases clearing double which made the score 9-4 Mission.

Valley had a chance to split the two game series, but fell 12-5 at Mission last Saturday. The loss leaves Valley's record at 4-10 in the Western State South Conference, and 6-18 overall.

The men welcome West Los Angeles College to Pike Field Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

# Sweet 16 Set, Cinderella is a Wildcat

ROBERT R. KING  
STAFF WRITER

When the final buzzer sounded on Sunday ending the first weekend of the NCAA basketball tournament, all three Southern California teams involved had been eliminated.

The first to fall was Cal State Northridge. The Matadors, who entered the tournament as a 15 seed, faced off two seed Memphis.

Northridge, led by junior point guard Mark Hill, led by six points with 10 minutes to go but the Tigers were able to finish off the Matadors 81-70.

"My hat is off to Northridge," said Memphis Coach John Calipari after the game. "They did not back down."

Tenth-seeded USC faced off with seven seed Boston College in the first round and handled business, winning by 17 points, 72-55. Taj Gibson led the Trojans, and was 10-10 from the field for 24 points.

However, the Trojans were not

able to gain momentum against two seed Michigan State in the second round. USC had a 68-67 lead with less than five minutes to go, but fell 74-70.

"We didn't put our heads down. We kept fighting," said USC junior guard Daniel Hackett.

"I'm really proud of them," said Trojan coach Tim Floyd after his teams effort against the Spartans.

Sixth seeded UCLA had to sweat out a win in their first round game against Virginia Commonwealth in Philadelphia. The Bruins held an 11 point lead with eight minutes remaining but saw the Rams chip away over the next seven minutes. Eric Maynor missed a last second shot and UCLA won 65-64.

The Bruins ran out of energy in their second game versus the third-seeded Villanova Wildcats. In the end, the Bruins were escorted off the floor by an 89-69 drumming from the home town team.

"They did a good job spreading us out," said UCLA coach Ben Howland. "I think they have a real

chance to move forward in this tournament."

The NCAA tournament usually creates several major upsets and sees several lower seeds make it to the Sweet 16.

Many commentators and television analysts said that the Wildcats should not have been included in the field of 64, but the 12th-seeded team defeated five seed Utah by 13 in the first round. Then they beat the other Cinderella of the tournament, 13th-seeded Cleveland State, who beat fourth-seeded Wake Forest by 15.

Next up for the Wildcats is the tournament's top seeded team, Louisville.

This year, ten teams in the lower half of the bracket made it to the second round but, other than Arizona and Purdue - a five seed - no teams lower than a four seed made it to the Sweet 16.

The tourney is heating up and by the end of next weekend the teams traveling to Detroit for the Final Four will be set.